

OUR PUBLIC LANDS

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BIG LAND . . . BIG DREAM



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Walter J. Hickel, Secretary

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT Boyd L. Rasmussen, Director

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

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OUR PUBLIC LANDS

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The Cover

Colorado: typical of the land that inspired the big dream.

88065804



No Homesteading on the Moon

In Spite of the harsh and hostile environment that greeted the Apollo 11 astronauts when they landed on the moon, there are many people who are now wondering how they can stake a claim to a piece of the lunar landscape.

The answer is short and simple, "They can't."

That is the gist of BLM Director Boyd L. Rasmussen's response to an increasing volume of mail from American citizens and others who are asking the Office of Territories and the Bureau of Land Management when the moon will be available for homesteading.

The Director's response was predetermined by the United States' adherence to the terms of the international Treaty on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The treaty guarantees free access to all nations to all celesial bodies and to outer space, and prohibits the ropriation of lands on these bodies by any sovereign ation.



Officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) say that placing a United States flag on the moon, along with a plaque commemorating man's most daring adventure yet in space, did not constitute a territorial claim to all or any part of the moon's surface.

So in the spirit of a well-known song, the moon still belongs to everyone, and aspirations of a little homestead on the moon remain in the category of dreams.

Magazine Editor Wins First Johnny Horizon National Award

Jack R. Cox, Mentone, Calif., managing editor of "Gems and Minerals Magazine," was presented the first Johnny Horizon National Award for his efforts on behalf of a cleaner outdoors. The award was made by BLM representative John Mattoon at the annual meeting of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies at Salt Lake City, Utah, in June.

The award is the Bureau's highest recognition of volunteer efforts in keeping the public lands clean, and will be made annually. It is named for a representative user of public lands whose slogan is "This Land Is Your Land—Keep It Clean."

Cox has led a sustained campaign among rockhounding enthusiasts involving litter removal projects, use of litterbags by recreationists, and promotion of the Johnny Horizon theme and outdoor pledge through public service editorials and advertising space in the magazine.

Public Land Statistics 1968

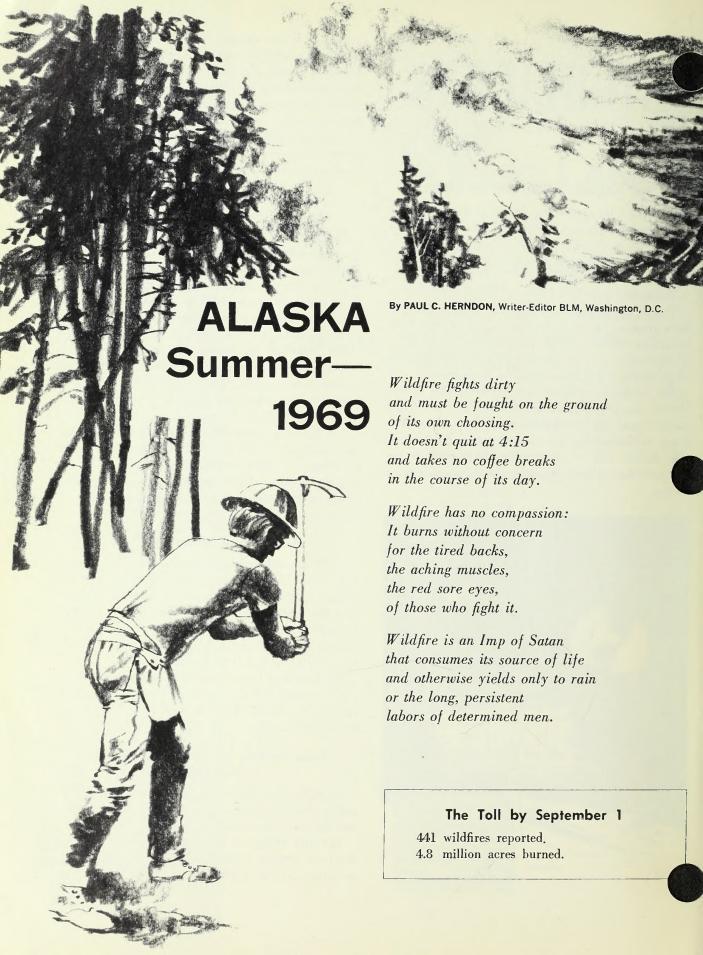
BLM's annual statistical report on the Nation's publicly owned lands is now available. The fact-filled publication lists land management activities on the more than 450 million acres of public land managed by the Bureau, and contains tables on activities in mineral leasing, grazing, forestry, wildlife and outdoor recreation, and protection from fire and trespass.

The book may be purchased from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. Price is \$1 a copy; catalog number is I 53.1/2:968.

New Edition of "Room To Roam" Available

An updated edition of "Room To Roam," BLM's bestselling recreation guide to the public lands in the West and Alaska is now available (see back cover).

The first edition of the guide proved to be one of the most popular Federal publications in 1968, with more than 200,000 copies sold.





It Was a Very Bad Time

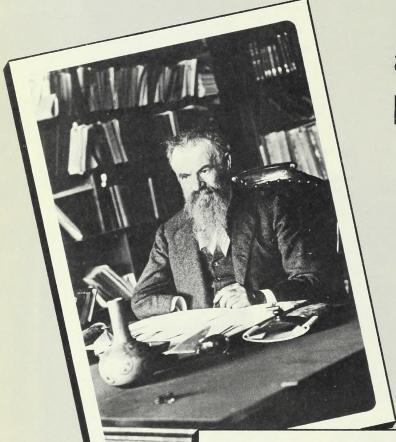








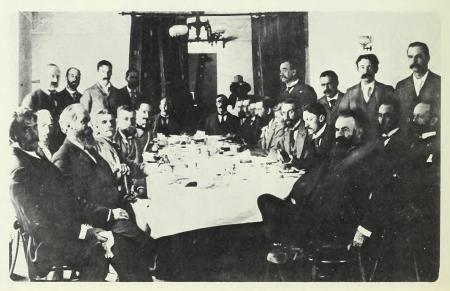
John Wesley Powell



and the Public Lands

Major John Wesley Powell, ca. 1896. Photo courtesy Smithsonian Institution

Powell at a farewell dinner given by his close associates when he resigned as Director, Geological Survey. 1894.





Water is the key in arid lands. Utah, south of Salt Lake City.

A Scientist and Leader in the Service of People

Nay 24, 1869, Major John Wesley Powell was an obscure professor of geology at Illinois State Normal University. On that day, however, he was not on his campus but on the banks of the Green River in far away Wyoming Territory launching the four boats of his first Colorado River Expedition. Three months and 500 canyon-enclosed miles later he and his party left the Colorado River below the Grand Canyon. His feat brought him into the national limelight. In the ensuing 30 years, achievements in Government and science added to his stature.

The centennial of the pioneering exploration is being commemorated this year in numerous ways. It also serves as an occasion to assess his other achievements.

As a scientist, Powell was thoroughly dedicated to putting science to work for the betterment of people. Much of his effort revolved around the public lands and over the years significantly influenced public land bolicies.

Powell's studies, both in and out of Government, quickly made him aware that the unifying natural phenomenon of the intermountain West was aridity. Many would have stopped with that discovery, but Powell wanted to do something about it. He began developing a new public land policy to help American agriculture adapt to the hard facts of arid lands.

His 1878 "Report on the Lands of the Arid Region of the United States With a More Detailed Account of the Lands of Utah With Maps" was his first effort. Powell perceived that the Nation was raiding its resources, and the report reflected his concern over the slipshod, unplanned settlement of the West. The report warned that the western drylands could not withstand the harsh treatment accorded the humid lands of the East.

In his report he foresaw cooperative arrangements replacing individual efforts in irrigation, and he strongly urged that water rights be inalienably tied to the land.

By JERRY A. O'CALLAGHAN
Chief, Division of Cooperative Relations
BLM, Washington, D.C.

Pasturage Lands

Successful ranching in arid, sparsely vegetated lands, he knew, would require acreages larger than the 160 acres granted agricultural homesteaders. The grazing lands he called pasturage lands, and for them he proposed an innovation: Pasturage homesteads of 2,560 acres. Aware that such large homesteads could result in widely scattered ranch homes with little social communication among them, Powell suggested that they be grouped "to the greatest extent possible." To do this, he urged that the homesteads be established so "as to give the greatest possible number of water fronts." This also was to preclude long, narrow homesteads on the long axis of watercourses that would bar the lands behind them from water.

The report was instrumental in the creation of the U.S. Geological Survey and the establishment of a commission to codify the land laws.

The directorship of the Geological Survey went to another Government geologist, Clarence King. Powell became Chief of the Bureau of American Ethnology and a member of the Commission which got underway in July 1879 and filed its report in February 1880.

Many of the Commission's recommendations bore Powell's imprint. It is clear, however, that he also modified some of his thinking.

Powell's mark was distinctly on the classification recommendations which were embraced in a draft omnibus public land statute that would have replaced all preexisting law.

"Let us not gird science to our loins as the warrior buckles on his sword. Let us raise science aloft as the olive branch of peace and the emblem of hope."

—JOHN WESLEY POWELL, 1882

The draft bill provided that "the public lands of the United States shall be classified as arable, irrigable, pasturage, timber, and mineral, and . . . shall be disposed of only under laws specifically applicable thereto."

As set forth in the draft bill, the arable lands—nonmineral lands capable of producing crops without irrigation—were to be transferred only under homestead, timber culture, or townsite laws.

For claimants to acquire irrigable lands, the bill required that a development plan be filed and, within 3 years, an investment be made of at least \$2 an acre.

The Commission's water law declaration reflected

Powell's insistance that water rights and land should be tied together.

Grazing Lands

The Commission set forth a double approach to the grazing lands. It followed Powell in calling for a pasturage homestead of 2,560 acres. It coupled this with a provision for the sale of grazing lands at declining graduated prices. Beginning in January 1881, the price for surveyed public lands would start at \$1.25 an acre and ultimately decline to a minimum of $12\frac{1}{2}$ cents. The same graduation would apply to unsurveyed land on completion of a survey. However, the draft provided that "nothing . . . shall in any manner prohibit or interfere with settlement . . . or withdrawal of lands from private sale by settlement under the homestead, pasturage homestead, or irrigation laws."

The draft bill provided for homestead colonies on the arable and pasturage land. Living in a colony's village while working the land was to be considered the equivalent of residence on a homestead. The provision expressed Powell's concern for maintaining a social structure which could otherwise be lost in the large acreages proposed for the pasturage homesteads.

The Commission report on timberlands was a significant departure from Powell's *Arid Lands Report* Powell as much as said that the timberlands were to far away for homesteaders to own them.

The Commission report recommended a policy already widely discussed in the 1870's: The withdrawal of commercial forest lands and the sale of stumpage according to a cruise which would be done at the time of original survey. This is essentially what came to pass as step by step the National Forests were created and brought under public administration.

In dealing with minerals, the Commission would have made Federal law the sole authority for possession and ownership of mining claims. Even today, for example, claimants file their location notices with county clerks and hold their claims against third parties under State law.

In a personal recommendation appended to the report, Powell recommended the separation of the mineral estate from the surface in the transfer of pasturage lands to private ownership. This recommendation became law with respect to coal in 1910 and to other minerals generally in 1914. The Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 contained an automatic reservation to the United States of all minerals.

He also advocated the reservation of surface rights to the United States in land transferred to private ownership under the mineral law.

In Advance of the Times

Many of the reforms called for in Powell's Aridands Report were controversial and, in 1878, too far in advance of the times. But within 10 years many people were beginning to accept his views, and in the West those who had disregarded his warnings of the need for irrigation were seeking sources of water more dependable than the weather.

Powell, who had become Director of the Geological Survey in 1881, prepared a draft bill that became law in 1888 to appropriate \$200,000 for an irrigation survey in the West. He drew skillful and dedicated men from the Geological Survey to get the irrigation survey underway.

Just as earlier when Powell's mind ranged out beyond the new geology he was discovering and explaining during his Colorado River explorations, his thinking was ahead of the engineering of the irrigation survey. He was ready to build new institutions.

He saw the drainage patterns of the West as the geographical matrix for a new institution. He wanted to organize local residents into units of local self-government with boundaries on drainage patterns and with autonomous authority over natural resources. Powell assumed that natural resources, especially water, would make each basin self-sufficient.

Powell and the Senators backing the irrigation surey soon fell out. They wanted a quick survey: Sites picked in the office, canals plotted on maps, and the public lands released from the embargo the law placed on their transfer during the survey. Powell wanted good topographic mapping and a careful determination of land uses and selection of specific sites. Further events forced a crisis.

In the summer of 1889 Powell designated Bear Lake on the Idaho-Utah line as the first reservoir site. The Idaho Constitutional Convention complained forcefully to the Department of the Interior about speculators filing claims along the Bear River. This brought up the interpretation of the authorizing language. William Howard Taft, Acting Attorney General, ruled that language authorizing the irrigation survey was a statutory withdrawal of all public lands. This meant that every entry after October 2, 1883 was void. Under this ruling, all 800 million acres of the public lands (except as the President would lift it for homesteading) were closed to settlement-to the West an almost inconceivable occurrence, yet it had happened. President Harrison was unmoved by western appeals, and Powell, with his vision of what could be, resisted the guick job the western irrigation enthusiasts were urging on him. e worked his organization hard to get tangible results.

Survey Jettisoned

There is a complex story of bureaucratic and legislative infighting, but in essence the House was with Powell, the Senate against him. In the end the Senators won. The irrigation survey was jettisoned and invalid entries, those made after October 2, 1888, were authorized to be validated if "made in good faith."

Ironically Powell was in basic agreement with his detractors except as to the percentage of lands that could be irrigated. He wanted to plan his land settlement around the pioneer settler, but he realized he needed some help in the form of scientific information and some new institutions. Senator George Stewart of Nevada and others felt that he needed none of the former and very little of the latter.

Powell assumed, as they did, that all of the public lands would be and should be transferred to private ownership. He set forth the terms and conditions that might have made it possible: The graduated sale price of pasturage lands, and the formation of grazing districts with nonmonopolistic water rights inhering in the land. None of this came to pass.

Using the existing public land laws that did not directly provide for grazing units, the early ranchers got ownership of springs, meadows, and private rangeland. Without needing ownership of the remaining public lands, they then turned their animals out to graze on the public domain pretty much without-hindrance until 1934. In that year, the Taylor Grazing Act brought regulated grazing use to the public lands. But by this time, the high grading of strategic blocks of land had left millions of acres of public lands in a highly variegated pattern ranging from isolated forties to million-acre blocks.

Powell cast his longest shadow on public land policy with his advocacy of land classification. His advocacy ultimately led to more systematic classification of the coal, mineral, and some oil lands, and to the concept of classification that is now pervasive in Federal administration of public lands. The Stock Raising Homestead Act of 1916 (a reduced version of Powell's pasturage homestead), the Taylor Grazing Act of 1934, the Small Tract Act of 1938, and the Classification and Multiple Use Act of 1964, were all presaged by Powell's work in the 1870's and 1880's.

Though seen less clearly, perhaps, his classification concept is also imbedded in various local land use planning and zoning laws enacted by States and in local ordinances that now embrace all manner of land holdings.

Giant Dwarf of the Mesa Lands

WHEN SPANISH EXPLORERS entered the Southwest around 1500 A.D. they noted flat-topped hills and called them *mesas*, or tables.

They also found a squat, round tree growing on the hills that bore an edible nut. The tree resembled a pine. They called it *piñon*, or pine. Today the tree is known simply as *piñon*.

The Spanish noted also that a blue-gray jay without a topknot fed on the pine nuts, calling cheerfully from the treetops. They named him *piñonero*. In English, he is *piñon* jay.

The jays flock together in September at the close of their nesting season, and scout the piñon-covered hills for ripening nuts. They know, somehow, that piñon trees bear nuts somewhere every year.

When they find a producing area, the jays peck at the opening cones, filling their stomachs and scattering coffee bean-sized nuts in the process. Also enjoying the harvest will be rodents, wild turkeys, and man.

The early Spanish explorers didn't know it then, but the piñon pine covered thousands of square miles of open, arid lands throughout the West. *Pinus edulis*, as

By DOYLE KLINE
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the botanist calls the piñon, has for centuries past furnished food and fuel to man, food and shelter wildlife.

The wood of this tree makes excellent fuel for cooking and heating. The incense of its smoke spells enchantment and nostalgia on autumn evenings in Santa Fe and small villages throughout most of the Southwest where people still cook with wood. Memories of such scents, blended with the aromas of fresh chili, tortillas, and frijoles, haunt anyone who has savored them.

Christmas, to many in the Southwest, would not be Christmas without a piñon Christmas tree.

One fourth of New Mexico's area is occupied by this slow-growing dwarf pine with—for a pine—a gigantic seed. Other Western States also have large acreages of piñon forest.

When young piñon trees begin to bear nuts, they may be 5 to 10 feet high and about 25 years old. At 75 years, the trees are big enough to produce nuts in commercial quantities. They grow principally at elevations of 5,000 to 7,000 feet. Adapted to the dry climate, they are long-lived and may continue to bear for hundreds of years. Old trees in good surroundings may grow to 75 feet and have a trunk diameter of 18 inches.

Harvesting

In September and October, usually after frost, mature cones open and the nuts fall. The oldest als simplest method of harvesting is to pick the nuts off the ground by hand. A fast picker can harvest 20 pounds in 1 day. That's about 28,000 nuts!

Sometimes pickers spread canvas beneath a tree loaded with expanding cones. They shake the tree, gathering the loosened nuts on the canvas. This is a pitchy undertaking at best. In the end it is slower than picking nuts from the ground. Piñon trees are copious producers of pitch. The cones are particularly gooey.

Other picking methods have been reported in other areas. None seems practical compared with the ancient Indian method. By picking pitch-free nuts off the ground, Indian women—who do most of the picking—need no ladders or other picking paraphernalia. On steep slopes such apparatus is more hindrance than help.

Average yield for New Mexico is about 1.5 million pounds of nuts a year. In 1936, a special study by New Mexico State University reported that 11.2 billion nuts, or about 8 million pounds, were produced that year in New Mexico, eastern Arizona, and Southern Colorado.

Three successive growing seasons are necessary t produce mature cones, the University says. Thus



Friend to Man and Wildlife

Mature piñon cones and their tasty nuts. Nuts are slightly larger than coffee beans.

Middle-age spread has overtaken this pinon in a typical piñon-juniper woodland.

piñon must have normal rainfall and other favorable conditions 3 years in a row to produce a good crop.

One of the advantages of the piñon nuts is their excellent keeping quality. Dry, unshelled nuts have been stored up to 3 years in New Mexico without turning rancid. Shelled nuts, however, turn rancid in 4 to 6 months. Apparently the nut will not become rancid as g as the germ retains its vitality. The nuts require air for proper curing, and should not be shipped to humid climates unless they are to be eaten right away. Roasting the nuts improves their flavor, but shortens keeping time.

Eating raw nuts can cause sore throats, according to some of our Indian acquaintances. We, therefore, always roast ours.

Roasting

The easiest way to roast the nuts is to place them unshelled in a cast iron frying pan over moderate heat on top of the stove. Don't try to roast too many at a time until you learn how. A cupful is a good start.

Let your nuts heat, stirring gently and constantly, for about 5 or 6 minutes. Taste a few kernels. Compare their taste and looks with unroasted kernels. Remember that the shells hold heat for a time and thus continue the roasting process after you remove the nuts from the pan. Allow for this.

Roasting nuts in an oven is tricky. It is too easy to overdo it. Even Indians fail at this.

Researchers have found that the protein of the piñon nut has high biologic value. Beef round has a digestability of 99.6 and a biologic value of 67.8. Piñon nut tein rates 94.4 and 63.3 respectively. That makes

piñon nut protein superior to that of any nut except the cashew.

Piñon nut kernals average about 60 percent fat. That is lower than the pecan, English walnut, and brazil nut, which average about 70 percent, but is higher than such nuts as the peanut, almond, and pistachio.

The kernal averages 58.1 percent of the whole nut, leaving 41.9 percent shell. Only the peanut has proportionately less shell.

The daily protein requirement of humans could be supplied by piñon nuts. The nuts also could supply 66 percent of our calories, more than 200 percent of our vitamin B1, 170 percent of our vitamin C, and 100 percent of our iron.

Good nuts have a rusty brown color with shadings and mottlings of tan. Nuts with diseased or undeveloped kernals have a grayish cast.

If you want to try gathering and roasting your own piñon nuts, keep your eyes and ears on the piñon jays—or watch for experienced gatherers along the roadsides.

Whatever you do, look upon the piñon tree as a friend. It clothes the weathered hills with softness, shelters wild animals against storms, feeds wildlife and humans with its rich nuts, warms the traveller before the fireplace, and cooks his meals. It corrals livestock, and shores up mineshafts with its timbers.

As if that were not enough, this giant dwarf of the mesa lands sends its incense up the chimney at Christmastime to lend enchantment to the land of sagebrush and rimrock, to cheer the piñon jay through the snowy months, and to draw families together in traditions older than time.

The Big Land... The Big Dream

By The Honorable Wayne N. Aspinall

U.S. Representative from Colorado; Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs; Chairman of the Public Land Law Review Commission.

(Reprinted by permission of "Petroleum Today," American
Petroleum Institute)



"The Homestead and the Building of the Barbed Wire Fences." Mural by John Steuart Curry, 1939, in U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

Boone Caudill looked down in his palm . . . "It's all sp'iled, I reckon, Dick. The whole cabbodle."

"I don't guess we could help it," Summers answered, nodding. "There was beaver for us and free country and a big way of livin'... We went to get away and to enj'y ourselves free and easy, but folks was bound to foller and beaver to get scarce and Injuns to be killed or tamed, and all the time the country gettin' safer and better known. We ain't seen the end of it yet, Boone, not to what the mountain man does against hisself. Next thing is to hire out for guides and take parties acrost and sp'ile the country more."

—from "The Big Sky," a novel about pioneer trappers in the West by A. B. Guthrie, Jr., the Pulitzer Prize-wining author. (Reprinted by permission of Houghton Mifflin Company.)

PIRST CAME the mountain men, the wild, blustering, hard-drinking hunters and trappers, freezing in winter, fighting Mohawks and Iroquois, and later Sioux and Blackfeet in summer, all for the pleasure and profit of wading through icy creeks and streams for beaver skins.

After them came the soldiers and farmers, forts and plows, and the good land on the river bottoms was broken and tilled. The trees were burned or cut down to make fields where corn could grow. And more men

came, eager to buy these farms or the good land near them; and once settled, they shook their heads morosely about those who came afterwards, crowding in on them Each group was always sure that the next group v "sp'ilin'" the good, free country.

Each new group of public land users was also regarded by the established users of the land as a trespasser. The new uses were seldom specifically authorized by law. Thus the mountain men, the soldier, the farmer, the miner, the rancher, and last of all the recreationalist of today was each in turn an unauthorized user of the public lands until that use was recognized and approved by act of Congress.

From the beginning, our land has been the strength of America. After the Revolution, we must have seemed to the world a frail country of slender means, too poor even to maintain our Capital of Washington, whose streets were awash with mud; a Government so weak that a band of Pennsylvania mountaineers felt free to refuse to pay their taxes and so launched the famed Whiskey Rebellion. But beneath the seeming poverty lay immense wealth, for we had at our disposal several hundred thousand square miles of the richest virgin soil in the world.

Hunger for Land

And throughout the world, there were men waiting for this land. They came from the new, bustling States along the Atlantic seaboard, men who, even by 180



were beginning to feel claustrophobic and hemmed in by neighbors, men who dreamed of open, fertile lands to the West. In Europe, this dream had long flourished, at by the 19th century, it had taken on considerable commercial gloss as agents for American land traveled about.

Peasants and poor farmers listened entranced as the agents told fanciful tales about the rich farmland of the American frontier. They told of land so fertile the turnips grew to the size of tree stumps and each pumpkin had to be hauled out of the field in its own cart. The corn was so high the stalks could be used for firewood or building logs; and the cucumber seeds sprouted so fast the vines sometimes strangled the farmer while he slept.

The reality of life on the frontier could hardly live up to these tales. Many settlers who headed west with dreams of green, bountiful fields found that journey's end was little more than a sod hut in the midst of a parched prairie. Fires and drought burned them out. Marauding Indians terrorized them; clouds of grasshoppers spread like an ugly green carpet over their fields destroying the crops.

Many of the settlers were broken by the experience and either gave up or died on their poor, hard-scrabble farms. But others endured and were strengthened; and the world began to hear tales about a new kind of man, the American pioneer. There was something fresh and ifferent about him. He paid no attention to Old World social systems of class, background, inherited wealth. On the American frontier, all men were equal. The only things that counted were that a man could raise a family and defend it, farm his land, and hold it. A man who could do that on the frontier was the equal of any prince in the world.

Public Land Bounties

From the beginning, our founding fathers—men like Washington, Jefferson, Hamilton—recognized the importance of the public lands and the role they could play in building a nation. As early as 1776, the Continental Congress was offering a bounty of 50 acres to any Hessian mercenary employed by the British who would put down his arms and come over to the American cause. Next, Congress offered land to *anyone* who enlisted in the American armies—100 acres for a private and as much as 500 acres for officers.

This was an act of faith. At the time, Congress had no legal right to any land, and, indeed, had no way of knowing whether the new, struggling Republic could even last through the year.

When the war was won, there remained the problem of obtaining legal possession of the public lands beyond the Appalachians which belonged to various States. Several years passed before seven of the original States ceded their title to these lands and thus founded the public lands system we know today.



"The Oklahoma Land Rush, April 22, 1889." Mural by John Steuart Curry, 1939, in U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.

For the soldiers who fought the Revolution, this period of legal wrangling was infuriating. At one point in 1783, a group of officers met in Newburgh, N.Y., and threatened not to surrender their arms until they received assurances that they would get their promised land.

Only the sudden appearance of George Washington at the meeting calmed what might have become a military insurrection. In a speech that brought tears to the eyes of many of the officers, Washington counseled patience. He agreed that Congress was moving slowly but said he believed it would honor its land grants. He pledged that he would do everything he could to see that the officers received their land.

Speculators Move In

Eventually, Congress did discharge its land debts. For many, the settlement came too late. Angry or destitute, soldiers took advantage of a law which allowed them to assign their land warrants to someone else and sold their holdings to speculators. Public lands were again offered as a bounty to soldiers in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. In time, 73 million acres of public land were conveyed as bounty for wartime service. A sizable portion of these warrants eventually found their way into the hands of speculators. Some are still outstanding.

As speculators traded more and more heavily in land, it became apparent that land was one of the most valuable commodities the new Government had to offer. In 1812, the General Land Office, which is now called the Bureau of Land Management of the Department of the Interior, was organized. The task allotted to it was to dispose of the public lands.

The local land office became one of the busiest centers on the frontier (in fact, that's how the term, land-office business, originated). Here settlers gathered to bid and barter, check on prices and sites, or just sit and swap tales. Many of the registrars in charge of the local offices complained to their superiors in Washington that the premises were constantly crowded with people who, in the words of one agent, "dosed themselves with asafetida, garlic onion, and all sorts of noxious and strange-smelling things."

The Nation Grows

Through the first half of the 19th century, the American land boom flourished. More and more acreage was added to the Nation's treasury. There was the Louisiana Purchase in 1803, the Spanish Cession in 1819, the Oregon Compromise in 1846, the Texas and Gadsden Purchases in the 1850's, and finally the Alaskan Purchase in 1867. Altogether, the Government acquired 1.8 billion acres at a total cost of \$85 million—or a little less than 5 cents an acre.

Congress found a variety of ways of disposing of this land. Along with the military grants and ordinary land sales, there were land grants for wagon roads and canals, grants to new States and to new colleges within the States, grants to railroads that agreed to lay track across the country.

The hunger for land in this country culminated in the Homestead Act of 1862, which offered 160 acres to any man who was willing to live on his grant and improve it. The Act had its limitations, but it still represented a victory for all those forces in the West that felt the public land should belong to any man who was willing to give it enough time and sweat to make it productive.

Because so much public land was available during ese years, it's not surprising that on occasion land fice officials were a bit lax in disposing of acreage. And speculators were often ingenious in acquiring land they might not normally have been entitled to.

Tricks and Deceits

Homesteaders' cabins were sometimes measured in inches instead of feet to qualify as a "habitable house." There are tales of farmers who rode across good farmland in rowboats on top of wagons so they could later swear the land was swamp. Others were led blindfolded across mineral or timber lands so they could testify they had not seen minerals or timber on the land.

On one occasion, a teenage boy stood on the number 21 scribbled on a piece of paper and swore he was "over 21" and therefore entitled to homestead land. And at land auctions, local farmers, organized into claim clubs, would gather around speculators who seemed to be bidding for the best land and explain that, if they valued their lives, they would leave the auction quickly.

From the point of view of the pioneer, these "innocent deceits" were only ways of getting around laws which they felt were basically wrong. The land was for the people—and any technique that put good land into e hands of the farmer or cattleman and kept it away from speculators couldn't be all bad.

Despite these occasional lapses in administrative efficiency, the distribution of public lands was for the most part handled honestly and fairly, and millions of acres of land passed legally into the hands of good, hardworking settlers. In 1889, an Oklahoma land rush took place, and 50,000 settlers stampeded across the starting line into this new territory to stake out choice homestead sites. In 1896, gold was discovered in Alaska, and several hundred thousand gold seekers trekked north to the Klondike. When the gold petered out, some stayed to open this new land.

The Dream Becomes Reality

And so the dream of our founding fathers became a reality. For two and a half centuries, the early settlers of the colonies had, for the most part, huddled along the Atlantic seaboard. Then within a few generations, our pioneers swarmed across the Plains, found their way through the mountains, and reached the Pacific. All of the vast American continent was now an integral part of American life.

The role of the remaining public lands is somewhat ifferent but still very important. Thanks to the efforts

of conservationists like President Theodore Roosevelt, we now realize that even this most abundant of resources is not inexhaustible. It can be damaged; it can be destroyed. Timber can be unwisely stripped from the forests, the grass can be overgrazed by sheep and cattle, the minerals can be grossly torn from the ground.

The public lands must be used prudently and wisely. And they must be used to meet the needs of a country which is decidedly different from what it was in 1860 or 1900. From a predominantly agricultural Nation, we have become the most highly industrialized country in the world. Our population, only 76 million in 1900 has shot up to over 200 million.

For the Greatest Public Good

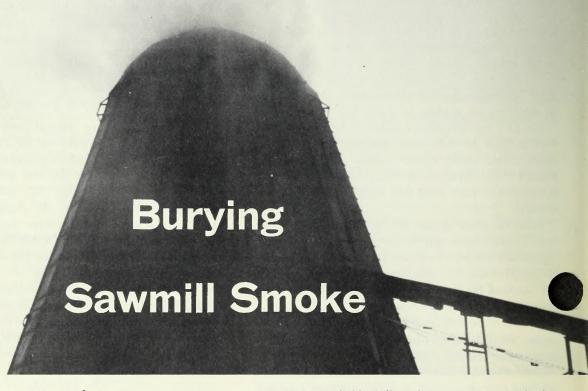
Nearly one-third of the original public domain still remains—most of it in Alaska and the Far West. It includes the 450 million acres administered by the Bureau of Land Management, and the 186 million acres of public lands reserved within our National Forest System and administered by the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. To prudently use these public lands, it is clear now that Government and industry must cooperate to insure that they are developed for the greatest public good.

At its very beginnings, the conservationist philosophy in America contemplated the wise and prudent use of our public lands. This attitude soon evolved into the concept of multiple use and the development of all natural resources, including timber, grazing, minerals, water, and the land itself.

In the intervening years, some uses for public lands—such as for agricultural purposes—have become less pressing while others—such as the need for parks and recreational facilities—have become more important. But the philosophy of a balanced approach to their utilization still seems to be the most reasonable one.

We have not solved all of our resources problems, but I think we have arrived at a point where we are aware of most of our difficulties. The solutions, of course, must be found through the cooperation of all segments of our society. As a legislator, I am naturally most intimately aware of the responsibility we in Congress have for the management of the Nation's public lands. And so I am particularly moved—and guided—by these words of Daniel Webster which appear above the Speaker's chair in the House of Representatives:

". . . let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests, and see whether we also in our day may not perform something worthy to be remembered."



Here's One Way of Avoiding Air Pollution

POUR SAWMILLS, with their tepee-shaped burners, dot the roadside north of Montrose in southwest Colorado. Disposing of their waste by burning, these mills pour out eye-watering and throat-irritating smoke and ashes, polluting the air, reducing visibility, and dimming the beautiful view of the mountains. In a 24-hour day one burner can convert as much as 250,000 pounds of mill wastes into smoke and ashes.

Montrose, population 5,000, sits in the Uncompanier Valley—a trough of land roughly 50 miles long and 7 miles wide. With an elevation of 5,800 feet, the

By DONALD W. WIRTH
Realty Specialist
BLM District Office, Montrose, Colo.

city is surrounded by hills and mountains—some higher than 14,000 feet. Among the many outstanding vistas of the area—on a clear day—are the snow covered peaks of the San Juans reaching high into the blue Colorado sky, But that's on a clear day!

Often in the summer, when there is little wind, this valley of the wide-open spaces is covered with a haze-like smog reminiscent of many metropolitan areas. When the wind is still, the air dry, and the wood smoke has been accumulating for days, the haze hangs in there, graying the sky, dulling the sunlight. Pieces of wood, ashes, and just plain grit filter down from the sky.

A Common Problem

This problem is not unlike that confronting many cities and towns in the West, as well as in other timbered parts of our Nation. Yet lumber mills are essential to the town. They mean jobs, payrolls, wood products for homebuilding and other construction. Bu





as with most industries, there are waste products to dispose of: Bark, slabs, edgings, sawdust. The easiest way to get rid of mill wastes is to burn them. Sometimes a mill will have a chipper, and the waste can be turned into material for other wood products: Chipboard, paper, insulation. Shavings and chips can often be used for bedding in corrals and in stock feeding pens. Sometimes there's no market for mill wastes, even when processed, and they are simply burned as has been the case with the Montrose sawmills.

But now at Montrose they are trying something different.

The townspeople, government officials, and the industry have for some time recognized the smoke problem at Montrose and, disliking their air polluted, have been looking for a solution. Bob Monson, president of Colorado Studs, Inc., made the big move to eliminate burning at his mill. He had operated mills both in western egon and northern California, and as a good busi-

nessman and conscientious member of the community, wanted to insure a good relationship with its citizens.

Monson's big move was made in two steps. The first thing he did was to invest some \$800,000 in a chipper that processes 130,000 pounds of waste wood and scrap daily. The chips are shipped by railroad and sold to a Wisconsin paper manufacturer.

Even with the chipper operating Monson still had to burn 120,000 pounds of daily waste. He then asked a local real estate agent to work with the city, the county, and the Bureau of Land Management in a group effort to find a way to eliminate all burning at his mill.

Solution Found

In the past, the Montrose District of BLM has, under the Recreation and Public Purposes Act, leased more than a dozen land areas for sanitary land fills and community dumps to nearby towns and counties. Here, then, in this kind of community service that BLM is authorized to provide, the citizens of Montrose found the answer they were looking for: A way to solve their own problem of preventing air pollution up and down 20 miles of the valley. Instead of burning sawmill wastes, why not bury them?

Near Montrose there are large blocks of public land managed by BLM. Some of these lands are nearly barren and are highly eroded, cut and crossed by many gulches and arroyos. One area in particular, known as Flat Top, attracted the group's attention. It is within 3 miles of Monson's sawmill. The area receives less than 10 inches of precipitation annually, and is so located that downstream damage could be prevented. Finally, the surrounding hills are nearly barren and present virtually no fire danger.

Flat Top was the group's choice; accordingly, BLM has leased a 40-acre tract to Montrose County as a dump site. The county supervises the chip and sawdust land fill.

The debris is dumped into 8-foot square cells, covered with dirt and then watered down to prevent blowing and to aid in compaction. At the lower end of each gully throughout the area, earth dikes will keep the wastes from flowing, drifting, or eroding onto adjoining lands.

There's no estimate yet of how rapidly the Flat Top site will be filled, but the 40 acres assure a minimum of 10 years use, and possibly longer.

The idea of burying lumber mill wastes may not be unique, but it is a solution where lands are available. And although burying wastes is an added cost to the milling operation—\$75 to \$80 a day because of haulage and other factors—the benefit of clean air is well worth it.

THE BIG STALLION was suspicious. He had led his one mare and colt down a winding trail to a unique water hole, a seep about 40 feet back in an old mine tunnel. Like all wild horses, he was naturally spooky, and this time he had good reason to be suspicious. There were intruders in his domain, Crouched on a high ledge commanding a good view of the mine tunnel were two Bureau of Land Management employees and a Life Magazine photographer.

Why should a busy photographer from a nationally-known magazine be found patiently waiting on a rocky ridge in an isolated mountain range in south-central Montana? And what was he waiting for?

The story actually began sometime in the late 1800's when a few horses strayed from the nearby Crow Reservation into a small range of mountains named after Sergeant Pryor of the Lewis and Clark Expedition. Later, following passage of the Taylor Grazing Act in 1934, a local rancher was licensed to graze 20 horses on the south slopes of the Pryors. Time, and a rugged landscape that made roundups difficult, saw these 20 horses, plus strays from the Reservation and nearby ranches, increase to about 200 by 1968 with a subsequent deterioration in the plant cover that is needed to hold soil in place. The result was intensified erosion and a dwindling food supply for horses, deer, and other animals.

Too Little Forage

Growing alarmed over these worsening conditions, employees of BLM's Billings, Mont., District set out to determine public opinion as to what should be done to correct the problem of too many animals and too little forage. Some expressions of interest in keeping horses in the area had already been voiced while others wanted the horses removed to lessen food competition for deer.

A total of 24 public meetings were held, with BLM presenting three alternative proposals for the Pryor area. These alternatives included maintaining the great-

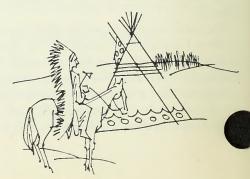
est number of horses the area would adequately support, maintaining fewer horses to further reduce competition with deer, and complete removal of all horses and managing the area for wildlife, including reintroduction of the bighorn sheep once native to the area.

Unfortunately, several newspaper and magazine stories concerning the horses ignored the first two proposals and stated that the Bureau of Land Management planned to trap all the horses and sell them for dog-food. For weeks, newspapers and radio and TV stations blasted the Bureau, and hundreds of letters were ceived charging BLM with inhumane treatment of horses, the majestic symbol of freedom.

In reality, the only action the Bureau had taken that directly affected the horses was to place a fence

They Needed Help and They're Getting It

Wild Horses of the Pryors



across the south boundary of the area to keep them off of private lands and to prevent cattle and other livestock from moving onto the horse range.

Two television networks produced programs on the Pryor Mountain horses, and national magazines, including Life, sent staff members to Montana to prepare illustrated articles concerning the problem.

The area used by the Pryor Mountain horses is a study in topography. It ranges from cool, timbered highlands down through rocky plateaus to eventually reach scrub desert. The Custer National Forest forms e north boundary, the Bighorn Canyon National Rection Area lies to the east, private lands are to the south, and additional public lands are to the west, across a deep limestone canyon carved by Crooked Creek. Smaller canyons further break up the area.

Home of Indians

The Pryor Mountains have a long history of Indian habitation and signs of Indian culture are still much in evidence. A plateau just across Crooked Creek Canyon from the range roamed by the wild horses has more than 100 tipi rings and was obviously an important camping area for nomadic tribes. Some of the tipi rings are noticeably smaller. The small rings indicate tipis of a size that could be carried on human backs or dog travois. Archeologists believe these were used before the Indians had horses.

Other sites have petroglyphs and pictographs, carvings and paintings that are believed to relate various tales of early man in the Pryor country. One early man firepit in the Pryors is believed to be more than 10,000 years old.



The major problem in the horse area centers around plant cover, or the lack of it. Preferred forage plants for horses are severely overgrazed, and the horses are competing with deer for rabbitbrush, mountain mahogany, and other browse plants. Vegetation is so sparse that some horses have been dubbed "the diggers," after their habit of actually pawing and digging away the soil to get at plant roots.

Water is another problem. Major watering places include two springs near the south boundary and the mine tunnel waterhole on the west side. Some of the horses travel up to 10 miles between water and available feed.

There are also legal ramifications. By Montana law, stray horses belong to the State unless they are branded or otherwise subject to valid claim. BLM is responsible for the land resources but has no legal jurisdiction over the horses.

The issue finally became so heated that BLM Director Boyd Rasmussen personally visited the area for a first-hand look at the problem. On his recommendation, the Secretary of the Interior established the 32,000-acre Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range in September 1968, and authorized the Director to appoint a special citizen's advisory committee to study the range and make recommendations for future management.

Committee Appointed

The committee, as appointed by the BLM director, pulled together people from many disciplines and interests. Its chairman was Dr. C. Wayne Cook, head of the range science department, Colorado State University. Members included William Cheney, executive officer, Montana Livestock Commission; Dr. Frank C. Craighead, wildlife ecologist; Frank H. Dunkle, director, Montana Fish and Game Department; Mrs. Velma B. Johnston, better known as "Wild Horse Annie," and president of the International Society for the Protection of Mustangs and Burros; Clyde A. Reynolds, Mayor of Lovell, Wyo.; Mrs. Pearl Twyne, president of the American Horse Protective Association; and George L. Turcott of BLM's Washington Office.

The committee met in Billings, Mont., in October 1968 and then journeyed to the Pryor Mountains for a closer look at the resource problem there. Range conditions, the condition of the horses, and other factors affecting the area were noted.

The committee met again in the early spring of 1969 and flew by helicopter over the range to see how the horses had stood the winter. Then long hours were spent in hammering out preliminary recommendations

for consideration at their third and last scheduled meeting in Washington, D.C., during June 1969.

Various factors limited the available choices. carrying capacity for deer and horses had to be considered. Horse behavior is a factor because of territorial preferences and feeding habits. Future management may require water developments to distribute the horses and thus reduce grazing pressure on areas adjacent to existing waterholes. The problem of free roaming branded horses that compete with the unmarked wild ones had to be considered. Should and can these branded animals be removed? How can the wild horses be protected from those who would round up and sell them?

Recommendations

These and many other questions were delved into during long hours at the conference table. Eventually, a set of recommendations emerged for formal presentation to Director Rasmussen. These were:

- 1. The Bureau of Land Management should manage the range for the benefit of the horses through cooperative agreements with State fish, game, and livestock agencies concerned.
- 2. Ultimate size of the herd should be reached through three steps. Branded, claimed, old, sick a deformed animals should be removed first. Water velopments should be used to improve distribution horses on the range, with priority given to northwest and northeast corners and central ridges of the area. Effects of removing some animals and improving water and grazing use should be studied before additional horses are removed. The committee recommended every effort be made to retain at least 100 horses.
- 3. Limited roads into the now inaccessible area should be provided to allow tourists to visit in passenger cars, but disturbance of natural values should be kept to a minimum. Off-road vehicles would be restricted.
- 4. The entire boundary should be fenced horsetight, and all gates should be locked. Auto gates should be used to provide entrances for visitors.
- 5. Additional management studies should be conducted, including studies on characteristics and behavior of the horses.
- 6. Roundups should be handled in small groups, with no more than one stallion or "harem" in a corral. Methods other than corralling, such as use of tranquilizers, should be tried.
- 7. Animals requiring disposal should not be knowingly sold for pet food uses, and surplus animals should be sold on the range if possible. Animals unfit for

should be destroyed on the site in a humane manner, the carcass disposed of under State sanitary

8. Supplemental feeding should be used only in dire circumstances when survival of the basic herd is threatened; the committee recognized that routine feeding by man would destroy the wild nature of the herd.

9. Branding of animals should be avoided unless marking for protective identification becomes essential, then an inconspicuous lip tatoo should be used.

10. Selection of animals for herd quality would be based on the roan, mouse, and buckskin coloring characteristics of the small, compact horse now found in the Pryor Mountains.

11. The committee urged that management agencies give adequate financial and administrative support for maximum management possible, and that the wild horse range be given a high priority among agency programs.

These recommendations were formally presented to

Director Rasmussen at the close of the third meeting. In accepting the recommendations which are now under consideration, Director Rasmussen thanked the committee for their efforts and presented each member with a certificate of appreciation signed by the Secretary of the Interior.

The Pryor Mountain Wild Horse Range is now a reality and information on the life history of this particular band of horses is being gathered. Food habits, herd composition, territorial preferences, reproduction, and other basic research is vital to the future management of the herd.

Because the Bureau of Land Management's ultimate boss—the American public—has asked it, a herd of wild horses will be maintained in the Pryor Mountains. And BLM has accepted this challenge to provide a permanent and healthy home for these wild ones—creatures that J. Frank Dobie so aptly termed the wind drinkers.



Unscheduled Conservation Lesson

B oy Scouts attending the Spring Camp-O-Ree at Nancy Lake in Alaska last June got an unscheduled conservation lesson. They fought a 1-acre forest fire.

It was around 2 o'clock on a Saturday afternoon when a Camp-O-Ree staff member, Amos Johnson, reported a fire half a mile from camp. Within 5 minutes a group of adults, older Scouts, and Explorer Scouts had loaded a pickup truck with shovels, picks, hatchets, and themselves and were on their way to the fire. Others at the camp prepared to follow.

At the fire, standard firefighting procedures were immediately put into effect. Beginning at the edge the blaze, the group began building a fire-line t would contain the fire until it burned itself out inside the line.

Several older boys and supervisors went back to camp, picked up a dozen 5-gallon water backpacks, and returned to the fire. By this time all available Scouts, about 100, were battling the blaze.

Older Scouts shouldered the backpacks, and younger Scouts formed a bucket brigade between a nearby lake and the fire. Using pots, pans, cups, canteens, and anything else that would hold water, they kept the backpacks filled. By 5 o'clock the Scouts had the fire licked and were beginning mopup operations when four BLM smokejumpers arrived to take over.

As a result of their successful fight to control the fire, each of the Scouts will receive $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours credit toward a conservation merit badge.

By REBECCA SHEAR
BLM State Office, Anchorage, Alaska



The following news notes, compiled by the Public Land Law Review Commission, report the progress to date of the Commission's work.

Advisory Council Meets in October

The Commission's Advisory Council will meet in Washington, D.C., October 9–10, to discuss Use and Occupancy, and User Fees and Charges. Governor's representatives will attend.

This will be the ninth meeting devoted to topics of concern to public land users. Past discussions covered Revenue Sharing and Payments in Lieu of Taxes, Withdrawals and Reservations, Outer Continental Shelf, Administrative Procedures, Fish and Wildlife, Water, Alaska, Land Grants to States, Federal Jurisdiction, Impact of Public Lands on Selected Regional Economies, Intensive Agriculture, Timber, Forage, Regional and Local Land Use Planning, Nonfuel Minerals, Energy Fuel Minerals, Outdoor Recreation, and Trespass and Unauthorized Use.

Reports on these subjects have been distributed to the Commission, Advisory Council, and Governor's representatives. They are available to the public at Commission offices, Washington, D.C.; National Archives Records Centers; and the Conservation I brary, Denver, Colo. The reports are only one of maninformation sources the Commission uses in considering these and other subjects.

Advisory Council Gains New Members

Clifford G. McIntire, Chicago, director of the American Farm Bureau Federation's Natural Resources Department and former Congressman from Maine, was appointed to the Advisory Council on May 10. Representative Wayne N. Aspinall of Colorado, Commission Chairman, said McIntire replaces Earl F. Requa of St. Paul, Minn. who resigned due to ill health.

A Congressman for 13 years, McIntire served on the House Committee on Agriculture and was Ranking Minority Member of the Subcommittees on Dairy and Poultry, Forests, and Conservation and Credit, and also was on the Foreign Agricultural Operations Subcommittee.

L. Ralph Mecham, Special Assistant for Regional Economic Coordination, U.S. Department of Commerce, has been appointed to represent his department on the Council. The Council consists of 25 private citizens representing various groups interested in the public lands and representatives from nine Federal agencies having public land responsibilities.

This is a compilation of the most up-to-date information possible up-coming sales of public lands by land offices of the Bureau and Management. For details of land descriptions, prices, and rinformation pertinent to sales, you must write the individual rand office concerned. In most cases, there are adjoining landowners who have statutory preference rights and may wish to exercise them to buy the land. Sales notices will point out, insofar as possible, problems relating to (1) access, (2) adjoining owner preference rights, (3) small-tract sales limitation of one per customer, and other pertinent information. When possible, all sales are scheduled far enough in advance so ample notice can be given in Our Public Lands. Sales listed can be canceled on short notice for administrative and technical reasons. A listing of BLM land offices with addresses is found on the opposite page.



ey: A, acres; app, appraised; El, elevation; tval, estimated value; Cty, county; veg, vegetative; pot, potential; pub, publication cost; elec, electricity; tel, telephone; D.O., District Office; L.O., Land Office.

CALIFORNIA

2 tracts, 8.58 A in San Diego City app \$14,400, and 171.29 A east of Barstow in San Bernardino Cty app \$27,400. Query Riverside Land Office for details.

135 small tracts in 7 different areas of San Bernardino Cty. Available every Wednesday at 10 A.M., Riverside Land Office.

COLORADO

36 tracts, 15.17 A to 320 A, in Cheyenne and Lincoln Ctys. Moderately rolling, suitable for grazing domestic livestock. 8 parcels on public roads; 1 corners public road; others have no public access. No domestic water available. Power, tel, mail routes, school bus, available to most parcels on public roads. Query Colorado Land Office for costs and other details. Sale early Fall.

55 tracts, .30 A to 130 A, in Sedgwick, Logan, Morgan, Yuma, Washington, Douglas, Elbert, and Kit Carson Ctys. Moderate to steeply rolling, suitable for grazing domestic livestock. I tract joins Pike National Forest on 2 sides; 8 tracts on public roads; 1 tract corners on public road; others have no public access. No domestic water available. Power, tel, mail routes, school bus, vailable to some tracts on public roads. Query Colorado Land fice for costs and other details. Sale early Fall.

MONTANA

2 tracts, 40 A each, 55 air miles southeast of Miles City in Custer Cty. Rolling grazing lands, no improvements. Access via ranch trails across adjoining private lands. Unsuitable for cultivation due to topography, shallow soils, low precipitation. App \$760 each.

320 A, 40 air miles south of Miles City in Custer Cty. Moderately to steeply rolling grazing land; no improvements. Access is via private ranch trails. App \$4,160.

NEW MEXICO

4 tracts, 40 A to 240 A, 7 miles west of Hatch, within ½ to 1¼ miles of State Highway 26. Low rolling to level grazing land. Good physical access to all tracts; legal access to 1. Elec on 1. 3 tracts app \$15 per A; 1 tract \$18 per A. Sale after Oct. 1.

NORTH DAKOTA

40.09 A, 14 miles south of Towner in McHenry Cty. Gently rolling topography and sand dunes, suitable for grazing. Precipitation averages over 16 inches annually; no stockwater on tract. Soil conditions unsuitable for cultivated crops. Section line access. App \$1,700.

UTAH

238.43 A, 1 mile north of Glendale in Kane Cty. Topography rough; mainly suitable for grazing. Coal, oil, and gas, as well as ditches and canals constructed by authority of U.S. all reserved to U.S. App \$13,100. Sale Nov. 13.

Bureau of Land Management Land Offices

ALASKA: 555 Cordova St. Anchorage, Alaska 99501 516 Second Ave. Fairbanks, Alaska 99701 ARIZONA: Federal Bldg., Room 204 Phoenix, Ariz. 85025 CALIFORNIA: Federal Bldg., Room 4017 Sacramento, Calif. 95814 1414 Eighth. St. Riverside, Calif. 92502 COLORADO: 14027 Federal Bldg. Denver, Colo, 80202 IDAHO: 323 Federal Bldg. Boise, Idaho 83701 MONTANA: (N. Dak., S. Dak.): Federal Bldg. 316 North 26th St. Billings, Mont. 59101

NEVADA: Federal Bldg., 300 Booth Reno, Nev. 89505 NEW MEXICO (Okla.): Federal Bldg. Santa Fe, N. Mex. 87501 OREGON (Wash.): 729 Northeast Oregon St. P.O. Box 2965 Portland, Oreg. 97208 UTAH: Eighth Floor, Federal Bldg. 125 South State St. P.O. Box 11505 Salt Lake City, Utah 84110 WYOMING (Nebr., Kans.): 2120 Capitol Ave. Cheyenne, Wyo. 82001 ALL OTHER STATES: Robin Bldg. 7981 Eastern Avc. Silver Spring, Md. 20910

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